

VIEW Clubs of Australia

Voice Interests and Education of Women



A valued part of The Smith Family

Question: How can VIEW engage as a vital part of The Smith Family to reduce disadvantage in Australian communities?

Answer: By supporting early intervention for children and their families, coupled with strategies for life long learning

Following are some suggestions as to how your Club might become involved:

Reading with children to advance literacy

Facts: - 88% of kids who struggle with reading in the first year of school will remain a poor reader at the end of Grade 3

- Children from low-income families usually start school with only 25 hours of reading time, compared with middle class children who enter school with 1000 to 1700 hours of 1:1 reading time

Our Response:

VIEW members may become engaged through:

- Reading with young children/grandchildren
- Reading with children at a local school
- Participating in a reading program at the local library or community centre
 - before, during or after school

Providing toys and books for children at Christmas

Facts: - Less than 50% of financially disadvantaged children have satisfactory reading and writing skills in Year 5

- 47% of welfare dependent parents had no alphabet books at home, compared to only 3% of professional parents

Our Response:

VIEW members could raise awareness and funds through:

- Holding a Christmas in July function to which members can bring a gift for an 8-12 year old child
- Holding a local literary lunch, inviting local guests to bring a book or donate funds to buy a book
 - Running a *Books for Books* event. Second-hand books are sold amongst VIEW members, and the proceeds used to purchase new books

Enriching Australia's Future with The Smith Family

Sponsoring Learning for Life students

Facts: - One in seven Australian children live in a financially disadvantaged household. These children are more likely to have lower levels of literacy numeracy and comprehension; are more likely to leave school early and less likely to attend university; and more likely to exhibit problematic school behaviour such as truancy.

Currently 376 Learning for Life Students are supported by VIEW Clubs
280 clubs and/or Zones sponsor Learning for Life Students

Our Response:

VIEW members could raise awareness about Learning for Life and raise funds to sponsor or pledge towards a sponsorship through:

- Holding an annual fashion parade and inviting other people from the community
 - Holding a trivia night
 - Becoming involved in Christmas wrapping

Donating school stationery packs for children

Facts: - When financially disadvantaged families struggle to pay their everyday bills, the 'extras' of a child's education are simply out of reach. These children do not have equal access to the education that most of us take for granted and these children, no matter how gifted, aren't able to complete their schooling.

- Research overwhelmingly shows the strong link between improving educational opportunities and combatting financial disadvantage.

Our Response:

VIEW Clubs could engage through:

- Holding a 'drive' each month for a different item of stationery to be donated
- Making bags for students for delivery of stationery items, and to be used by students for library books, sport or other items

Engaging with children after school

Facts: - Just under 1/3 of financially disadvantaged families have access to the internet at home, well below the national average of almost 60%

- Mentoring is one of the most effective ways of sharing knowledge within communities providing a "significant other" for those who are lacking positive role models

Our Response:

VIEW members could become involved by:

- Hosting a homework/computer club with *Learning for Life* Workers or at a local school
 - Sharing their skills at the local school - craft/art/drama/music
 - In conjunction with a local school, community centre or neighbourhood house develop a garden or cooking group

Want to know more?
Then contact VIEW at:

Post: GPO Box 10500, Sydney, NSW 2001

Telephone: (02) 9085 7178 Outside Sydney: 1800 805 366



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Email: view@smithfamily.com.au

Website: www.smithfamily.com.au/view